

Amendments to the Abstract

In the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

~~The invention relates to a locking device (1) for preventing two contactors (2a; 2b) from being simultaneously switched on. A locking element (14) is mounted in facing openings (6a; 6b) of the connecting sidewalls (4a; 4b) of the contactors (2a; 2b) in the form of a rolling body and engages into a spherical cup type recess (12a or 12 b) of the actuating member (8a or 8b) of the respective contactor (2a or 2b) that is to be blocked from being switched on. The invention further relates to a fork-shaped auxiliary tool (20) for inserting the locking element (14) into the openings (6a; 6b).~~

A mechanical locking device for mechanically connected contactors includes a first and a second actuating member and a locking element. The actuating members are operatively connected respectively to an electromagnetic operating mechanism and a movable contact of a respective contactor. The first actuating member has a first curved recess adjacent the first connecting sidewall. The second actuating member has a second curved recess adjacent the second connecting sidewall. The locking element includes a rolling element received in a respective opening in each of the first and second connecting sidewalls. The first actuating member urges the locking element into the second recess when the first contactor is in a switched-on condition and the second actuating member urges the locking element into the first recess when the second contactor is in a switched-on condition.